

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ANKARA 05199 081226Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 081156Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4168

INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

S E C R E T ANKARA 5199

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PINS, CVIS, BU, TU

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR REFUGEE STATUS

REF: A) ISTANBUL 2529, B) ISTANBUL 2530

1. I BELIEVE THE BEST WAY TO HANDLE THE BULGARIAN REFUGEE CASE SET FORTH REFTELS (THE FACTS OF WHICH ARE QUITE DIFFERENT THAN THE BRAZINSKAS CASE) IS FOR THE CONGEN TO ADVISE THE TWO BULGARIANS EITHER TO TURN THEMSELVES OVER DIRECTLY TO THE ISTANBUL REFUGEE CENTER OR TO THE TURKISH AUTHORITIES WITH A REQUEST THAT THEY BE PUT INTO THE ISTANBUL REFUGEE CENTER. AT THE SAME TIME, EMBASSY WOULD NOTIFY GOT AUTHORITIES THAT THE TWO BULGARIANS HAD COME TO CONGEN AND HAD BEEN GIVEN THIS ADVICE. WE COULD ALSO NOTE, WITH SOME SURPRISE, STORY OF ONE OF THE BULGARIANS THAT ON PREVIOUS OCCASION HE HAD BEEN TURNED BACK BY GOT AUTHORITIES.

2. I CANNOT BE SURE THAT THIS PROCEDURE WOULD GUARANTEE THAT GOT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT RETURN THE TWO BULGARIANS BUT GIVEN THE INTENSITY OF RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH IT ON MATTERS OF THIS KIND, I THINK FACT THAT USG HAS KNOWLEDGE OF THE BULGARIANS' PRESENCE IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD SERVE AS SIGNIFICANT DETERRANT AGAINST REPATRIATION. IT WOULD NOT, HOWEVER, BE AN IRON CLAD GUARANTEE BECAUSE TURKS ARE TRYING TO IMPROVE THEIR RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENT OF BULGARIA AND IF GOT IS CONVINCED THAT

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THE BULGARIANS ARE SIIKING ASYLUM AS A RESULT OF PETTY THIEVERY

OR OTHER NON POLITICAL MISDEMEANOR, ITS TENDENCY IS TO RETURN THEM AND IT EXPECTS BULGARIA IM SIMILAR SITUATIONS TO DO THE SAME.

3. IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES WE SHOULD HANDLE DIFFERENTLY AND SPECIFICALLY, IF IT BELIEVES WE SHOULD SEEK STRONGER ASSURANCES FROM GOT, PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
MACOMBER

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NNN

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